

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AF-08 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8687

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 9508

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY INQUIRY ON US INTENTIONS ON ANGOLA UN
MEMBERSHIP

REF: (A) BRASILIA 9493, (B) USUN 5261

1. FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHEFE DO CABINETE (SOUTO MAIOR)
INFORMED DCM THIS EVENING THAT ANGOLAN REPRESENTATIVE AT UN
HAD APPROACHED BRAZILIAN MISSION WITH REQUEST THAT BRAZIL
SPEAK IN FAVOR OF ADMISSION OF ANGOLA TO UN WHEN ISSUE
COMES UP IN UNGA NEXT WEEK, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS TUESDAY.

2. SOUTO MAIOR CONTINUED THAT ITAMARATY IS INCLINED TO
RESPOND POSITIVELY, ADDING THAT, IN SPEAKING, BRAZIL WOULD
AVOID GOING INTO SUBSTANCE OF ISSUE AND LIMIT ITSELF TO
GENERAL EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR ADMISSION OF COUNTRY WITH
WHICH IT HAS FRIENDLY RELATIONS. BUT HE ADDED THAT SINCE
IT WOULD BE "MUTUALLY EMBARRASSING" IF BRAZIL TOOK THIS STEP
AND US THEN VETOED ANGOLAN ADMISSION, THEY WOULD LIKE TO
CONSULT AS TO WHETHER US INTENDS TO VETO AGAIN.

3. HE COMMENTED THAT "RUMORS IN NEW YORK" ARE THAT US WILL
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NOT VETO. HE CONFIRMED THAT BRAZILIAN MISSION HAD BEEN IN

CONTACT WITH USUN (REFTEL B), ADDING THAT AMBASSADOR BENNETT HAD SAID YESTERDAY THAT HE COULD NOT CONFIRM OR DENY RUMORS AND WAS AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS. NOTING THAT US HAD ALREADY SAID PUBLICLY THAT IT WOULD OPPOSE VIETNAM ADMISSION, SOUTO MAIOR RECALLED AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S COMMENT THAT ANGOLA AND VIETNAM WERE SEPARATE CASES. HE CONCLUDED FROM THESE "INDICATIONS" THAT GOB HAD SOME GROUNDS (THOUGH UNCONFIRMED) TO SPECULATE THAT US MAY NOT EXERCISE VETO. HE HOPED GOB COULD GET FROM US AN EARLY CLARIFICATION, REITERATING THAT THIS APPROACH IS MADE IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR COMMITMENT TO CONSULT WITH INTENTION OF AVOIDING "MUTUAL EMBARRASSMENT".

4. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA HAS CLEARLY PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON ACTIVE BRAZILIAN ROLE IN GAINING ADMISSION FOR ANGOLA AS MEANS OF FIRING UP STILL TENUOUS RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY AND ADVANCING BRAZIL'S POLICY TOWARD BLACK AFRICA. INDICATIVE WERE SILVEIRA'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS HERE SHORTLY BEFORE EARLY OCTOBER MEETING WITH SECRETARY THAT HE WOULD ASK SECRETARY TO REFRAIN FROM EXERCISE OF VETO AGAINST ANGOLA. AT SAME TIME, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT ITAMARATY IS HIGHLY SENSITIZED BECAUSE OF CONTINUING CRITICISM WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT OF ITS EARLY RECOGNITION OF MPLA REGIME AND WOULD FEEL FAR MORE RELAXED IN MAKING THIS PROMINENT GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR ANGOLA IF IT COULD POINT TO AN ESSENTIAL CONVERGENCE WITH US POSITION. WE NOTE, AT THE SAME TIME, THE POSSIBILITY THAT SILVEIRA, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WOULD TAKE CREDIT WITH ANGOLANS, OTHER AFRICANS, AND BRAZILIAN PUBLIC, FOR ANY SHIFT OF US POSITION. SO FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOB'S CONCERN NEED NOT BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE U.S. DECISION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ORDER TO RESPOND IN THE SPIRIT OF CONSULTATION, WE WOULD WANT TO GIVE THE U.S. REPLY TO THE GOB HERE IN BRASILIA NO WORSE THAN SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH USUN.
CRIMMINS

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